



# REGION M

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# AGENDA

## **RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG) (REGION M)**

**9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026**

**LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS  
INITIATED AND CHAIRED VIA GoToMeeting & IN PERSON AT  
301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS**

**VIRTUAL ACCESS AVAILABLE AT:  
<https://meet.goto.com/225875461>**

**YOU CAN ALSO DIAL IN USING YOUR PHONE:  
Access Code: 225-875-461  
United States: +1 (872) 240-3212**

**MEETING MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT LEAST SEVEN (3) DAYS  
PRIOR TO THE MEETING.**

**PRESIDING: JIM DARLING, CHAIR**



**1/07/2026**

# 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

2 . Consideration and **ACTION**  
to Approve October 7, 2025,  
Meeting Minutes

# 3. Public Comment

4 . Discussion and Consider  
**ACTION** on Status of  
Solicitation for Voting Member  
in Industries Category

5 . Discussion and Consider  
**ACTION** on Approve Membership  
Renewals for Members who have  
Expired Term Dates

## RGRWPG - REGION M - MEMBERS & TERM EXPIRATION DATES

	Name	Category	1st Term Began	Current Term Ends
1.	Glenn Jarvis	Other	3/25/1998	2025
2.	Sonny Hinojosa	Water Districts	3/25/1998	2025
3.	James Darling	River Authority	11/17/2004	2029
4.	Tomas Rodriguez	Public	7/30/2008	2028
5.	Carlos Garza	Small Business	7/30/2008	2028
6.	Judge Joe Rathmell	Counties	6/1/2011	2026
7.	Jaime Flores	Environmental Interests	8/3/2011	2026
8.	Frank Schuster	Other	1/4/2012	2027
9.	Nick Benavides	Small Business	6/5/2013	2028
10.	Dale Murden	Agriculture	3/9/2016	2026
11.	Marilyn Gilbert	Municipalities	8/2/2023	2028
12.	Dr. Neal Wilkins	Agriculture	7/13/2016	2026
13.	Jorge Flores	Municipalities	1/24/2018	2028
14.	Commissioner David Fuentes	Counties	8/1/2018	2028
15.	Tom McLemore	Water Districts	3/20/2019	2029
16.	Robert Latham	Electric Generating Utilities	1/12/2022	2027
17.	Steven Sanchez	Water Utilities	1/12/2022	2027
18.	Louie Pena	GMA Category	8/2/2023	Term limits Do Not Apply to GMAs
19.	Debbie Farmer	GMA Category	9/29/2021	Term limits Do Not Apply to GMAs

6 . Discussion and Consider  
**ACTION** to Approve Nominations  
for Annual Election of  
Officers/Executive Committee



## MEMORANDUM

\*Jim Darling, Chairman  
Rio Grande Regional Water Authority

\*Sonny Hinojosa, Vice-Chairman  
HCID #2, San Juan,

\*Vacant, Secretary

\*Frank Schuster  
Val Verde Vegetable Co., McAllen

\*Nick Benavides  
Nick Benavides, Company, Laredo

Glenn Jarvis  
Attorney, McAllen

Marilyn Gilbert  
Brownsville PUB

Tomas Rodriguez  
Public, Laredo

Carlos Garza, P.E.  
AEC Engineering, LLC., Edinburg

Joe Rathmell  
Zapata County Judge

Jaime Flores  
Arroyo Colorado Partnership, Weslaco

Louie Pena  
Brush Country GCD, GMA 16

Dale Murden  
Texas Citrus Mutual, Mission

Neal Wilkins, Ph.D.  
East Foundation

Jorge Flores  
Eagle Pass Water Works

David L. Fuentes  
Hidalgo County Commissioner

Tom McLemore  
Harlingen Irrigation District

Debbie Farmer  
Wintergarden GCD, GMA 13

Robert Latham  
Magic Valley Generating Station

Steven Sanchez  
North Alamo Water Supply Corp

\*Executive Committee

TO: RGRWPG Voting Members  
FROM: Manuel Cruz, LRGVDC Executive Director  
DATE: January 2, 2026  
SUBJ: Election of Officers

According to the Region M Bylaws:

### ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

#### Section 1. Officers, Restrictions and Terms of Office

Voting members of the RGRWPG shall select from the voting membership a Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Secretary to serve as officers. *Each officer shall serve a term of one calendar year.*

#### Section 6. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of five RGRWPG members, including the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and two members-at-large. No two voting members representing the same interest shall serve as members of the Executive Committee at the same time. The two members-at-large shall be selected annually in the same manner and with the same terms as set forth for the selection of officers under this Article.

Those currently serving on the Executive Committee are:

NAME	OFFICE	CATEGORY	COUNTY
Jim Darling	Chair	River Authorities	Hidalgo
Sonny Hinojosa	Vice Chair	Water Districts	Hidalgo
Vacant	Secretary		
Frank Schuster	Member-at-Large	Other	Hidalgo
Nick Benavides	Member-at-Large	Small Business	Webb

1/07/2026



7. Discuss and Consider **ACTION** to Authorize the Region M Subdivision to Provide Public Notice and Hold a Pre-planning Meeting to Obtain Public Input on Development of the 2031 Regional Water Plan.....Chairman and Kevin Smith

8. Discuss and Consider **ACTION** to Advertise for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to Procure Technical Consultant(s) for 7<sup>th</sup> Cycle of Region M Regional Water Planning as per the Scope of Work to be Approved by Texas Water Development Board.....Chairman and Kevin Smith

## 9. Status Reports

**ACTION** MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY  
OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- 9A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Financial Report .....Melisa Gonzales-Rosas
  
- 9B. Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA’s 13 & 16 .....Louie Pena, GMA 16  
Debbie Farmer, GMA 13
  
- 9C. Reports from Other Regional Water Planning Groups
  - 1. Reports from Liaisons with: Region J, Tomas Rodriguez; Region L, (no representation),  
and Region N, Commissioner David Fuentes
  
- 9D. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region.....Chairman
  
- 9E. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and Grants .....Chairman



Period from 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025

**Region M 2025 Budget & Expenditure Report**

Budget Item	Budget Amount	Revenues to date	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total to Date	Available Balance
Salaries: (to include Salary & Fringe)	\$11,657.00		\$1,267.53	\$2,494.59	\$1,210.44	\$88.82	\$5,061.38	\$6,595.62
Website Maintenance	\$1,100.00		\$150.00	\$225.00	\$525.00	\$225.00	\$1,125.00	-\$25.00
Travel	\$2,000.00			\$1,880.91	\$685.46		\$2,566.37	-\$566.37
Consumable Supplies	\$200.00						\$0.00	\$200.00
Printing	\$500.00			\$11.00	\$77.40	\$1.15	\$89.55	\$410.45
Communications Phone /Internet	\$500.00						\$0.00	\$500.00
Postage	\$100.00			\$0.55			\$0.55	\$99.45
Sponsorships/other	\$2,650.00			\$397.74	\$200.00		\$597.74	\$2,052.26
Indirect Costs	\$3,943.00		\$292.55	\$575.75	\$279.37	\$20.50	\$1,168.17	\$2,774.83
Local Match		\$78,966.84						
Interest Income		\$3,342.24						
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,650.00</b>	<b>\$82,309.08</b>	<b>\$1,710.08</b>	<b>\$5,585.54</b>	<b>\$2,977.67</b>	<b>\$335.47</b>	<b>\$10,608.76</b>	<b>\$12,041.24</b>
<b>Actual Cash Available</b>								<b>\$71,700.32</b>

## 10. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

**ACTION** MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE  
FOLLOWING ITEMS

10A. TWDB.....Kevin Smith

10B. IBWC.....IBWC Staff

10C. TCEQ Watermaster (Status of Reservoirs).....Georgina Bermea  
Rio Grande Watermaster

## Region M TWDB Update January 7, 2026

### Final Invoicing for 2026 Regional Water Plan Contracts

- **Final Reimbursable Expense Date: 2/27/2026** (this is the last day that work performed under this contract is eligible for reimbursement).
- **Final Payment Request Deadline: 4/30/2026** (this is the latest day that final payment requests may be submitted for reimbursement).
- **Contract Expiration Date: 8/31/2026** (this is the date the contract expires. Any budget memorandum requests must be submitted by **July 31, 2026**)
- To indicate your submitted payment request to TWDB is the final payment request, please ensure that the payment request form is marked as the final payment request, or document in the email submittal that the expenses are “final”.
- Final payment requests may be submitted following TWDB Board approval of the 2026 Regional Water Plans, anticipated to occur January 22, 2025.

11. Discussion, Consideration, and  
**ACTION** on Date for Next Business  
Meeting:

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

## 12. Adjourn

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated and/or acted upon in a different order than numbered above. The Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) (Region M) reserves the right to adjourn into Executive (Closed) Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the items listed on this agenda as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act. No final action will be taken during the Executive Session.

### **PUBLIC INPUT POLICY**

Public Input Policy: “At the beginning of each RGRWPG meeting, the RGRWPG will allow for an open public forum/comment period. This comment period shall not exceed one (1) hour in length, and each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. All individuals desiring to address the RGRWPG must be signed up to do so, prior to the open comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public an opportunity to address issues or topics that are under the jurisdiction of the RGRWPG as outlined within final implementation guidelines of Senate Bill 1, 75th. Legislative Session (SB-1). For issues or topics which are not otherwise part of the posted agenda for the meeting, RGRWPG members may direct staff to investigate the issue or topic further. No action shall be taken on issues or topics which are not part of the posted agenda for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on posted agenda items deemed appropriate by the Chairman as these items are considered, and the same time limitation (3 minutes) applies.”